

The Healing Powers of a Balanced Brain
NeuroOptimal® Sessions at BrainJoy can help!



The Rogue Valley's only Neuro Wellness Center



"This has been great! I am more focused, sleep better and I am always in a happy mood, able to brush off negative things with ease. All in all, I am feeling much better inside and out with my BrainJoy sessions. I would recommend this to everyone!" -VCD, Medford, OR

Kathleen Kellenbeck Certified NeuroOptimal® Trainer

Schedule your complimentary consultation online at BrainJoy.com

BrainJoy | 1007 E. Jackson | Medford, OR 97504 | 541.622.6220 | BrainJoy.com

Rogue Valley Community Press

Southern Oregon Social Justice News and Action

ISSUE 20

SEPTEMBER 2015

Labor Donated

DOJ affirms homeless rights

BY VANESSA HOUK

A court case in Boise, Idaho is bringing national attention to the issue of homelessness and the right to sleep. The DOJ recently filed a statement of interest on the case, a move that homeless advocates see as support for the issue. The DOJ files statements when an issue has national merit. By issuing a statement, the DOJ is not taking a formal position on the benefits of the case, but brings attention to areas that the local court can take on and can strongly influence a court's decision on the matter at hand. In *Bell v. the city of Boise*, the plaintiffs are seven homeless people who feel as though they have been systematically targeted. They have been repeatedly ticketed under Boise's camping ordinance (ORD 28-14) which reads in part, "WHEREAS, the use of the streets, public areas, parks and the Boise River riparian area for camping purposes interferes with the rights of others to use the areas for the purposes for which they were intended," In September 2014, Boise amended the ordinance to read in part,

"It shall be unlawful for any person to use any of the streets, sidewalks, parks or public places as a camping place at any time, or to cause or permit any vehicle to remain in any of said places to the detriment of public travel or convenience; or to cause or permit any livestock of any description to be herded into any of said places during any hours of the day or night provided that this section shall not prohibit the operation of a sidewalk café pursuant to a permit issued by the City Clerk. The term "camp" or "camping" shall mean the use of public property as a temporary or permanent place of dwelling, lodging, or residence, or as a living accommodation at any time between sunset and sunrise, or as a sojourn. Indicia of camping may include, but are not limited to, storage of personal belongings, using tents or other temporary structures for sleeping or storage of personal belongings, carrying on cooking activities or making any fire in an unauthorized area, or any of these activities in combination with one another or in combination with either sleeping or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping). Law enforcement officers shall not enforce this camping ordinance when the individual is on public property and there is no available overnight shelter. The term "available overnight shelter" is a public or private shelter, with an available overnight space, open to an individual or family unit experiencing homelessness, at no charge. If the individual cannot utilize the overnight shelter space due to voluntary actions such as intoxication, drug use, unruly behavior, or violation of shelter rules, the overnight shelter space shall still be considered available."

The DOJ statement says that the plaintiffs claim that, "the City of Boise and the Boise Police Department's ("BPD") enforcement of these ordinances against homeless individuals violates their constitutional rights because there is inadequate shelter space available in Boise to accommodate



Ashland Oregon homeless protest for change in laws. photo by Jason Houk

the city's homeless population. Plaintiffs argue that criminalizing public sleeping in a city without adequate shelter space constitutes criminalizing homelessness itself, in violation of the Eighth Amendment."

The Plaintiffs in the Boise case are asking the court to follow a Supreme Court case, *Jones v. City of Los Angeles* where it was ruled that on nights where there is inadequate shelter space, anti camping ordinances violate the 8th Amendment. By issuing a statement of interest, the United States "makes it clear that "the Jones framework is the appropriate legal framework for analyzing Plaintiff's Eighth Amendment claims. Under the Jones framework, the Court should consider whether conforming one's conduct to the ordinance is possible for people who are homeless." The DOJ goes on to say something even more telling, "If sufficient shelter space is unavailable because a) there are inadequate beds for the entire population, or b) there are restrictions on those beds that disqualify certain groups of homeless individuals (e.g.,

In This Issue:

We Are Celebrating Labor Day

Upcycling the Commons	3
History of Labor Day	5
TISA and the corp agenda	8
LNG Protests	11
Applause & Hiss	13

and all your letters, actions and events...

Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,

In mid-August, we watched as some of the trees in our neighborhood started dropping leaves, about a month before they normally begin this seasonal process. And on a drive to the coast a few days ago, we saw the tops of trees have already begun to turn a striking yellow. All signs point to the arrival of Fall.

Also in August we did some fundraising (online and targeted mail), and we are so grateful for your support. Thank you!

Aside from the hustle and bustle of getting kids back in school, fall always signals a recommitment to the causes we fight for. So many of our fellow activists have been away on summer trips, but soon we'll meet up again and hear what other folks are thinking and worrying about. One of those places is the New Day Breakfast on September 18th at 8:00 AM. This is a potluck at the Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalists Church (87 4th Street< Ashland). At 8:30 AM there will be opportunities for groups and individuals to discuss what they are working on and to invite others to volunteer or contribute in some way. Please come, we'd love to see you there!

We are also very excited about the new Rogue Valley News Collaborative being organized through KSKQ radio. This is a collaboration of local radio, independent print media and student reporters to better cover our critical local issues. If you are interested in helping cover local news and produce stories for radio, video and print please attend the meeting on September 15 , 7 pm at KSKQ studios, 330 East Hersey St. in Ashland.

These pages are a preview of all of that, as RVCP explores the social justice community in southern Oregon. There's a lot to report on this month and we hope that some of it will inspire you to get involved in some new ways.

Kindly,
Vanessa and Jason Houk

Let's celebrate the labor
That built up this great land
From field to field to desk to desk
They built it hand in hand.
Happy Labor Day

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K

PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS

FOR THE IRAN DEAL

DIPLOMATS

GENERALS

SCIENTISTS

AGAINST THE IRAN DEAL

ARCHITECTS

FIND US AT RVCOMMUNITYPRESS.COM AND ON FACEBOOK

Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Through RVCP, we aim to educate people about social justice issues and inspire them to create positive change. Published monthly, RVCP is available through subscription, local distribution locations.

Contributions from the community are welcome, including articles, letters to the editor, short poetry, and photography. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. All writing accepted for publication will be edited with due respect for the author's intent. Opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editors.

Subscriptions are \$40 per year and mailed to the address of your choice. Sign up online or send us a check.

For businesses looking to reach a socially conscious audience, RVCP is perfect for advertising. To learn more, give us a call.

Contact
Jason Houk Publisher
Vanessa Houk Editor-in-Chief

Rogue Valley Community Press
258 A Street #1
Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 622-9483

editor@rvcommunitypress.com

Applause & Hiss

Sanctuary One, a nonprofit care farm in the Applegate Valley was recently given a gift that will make many dogs in southern Oregon happy, 15 tons of Blue Buffalo dog food.

The agency reports that in coordination with local and regional animal welfare partner organizations, Sanctuary One sorted pallets of bagged dry and canned food. The donation will benefit the Sanctuary One dogs and is being shared with partner agencies. These agencies include Wildlife Images, the Jackson County Animal Shelter, Rogue Valley Humane Society, Southern Oregon Humane Society, the Del Norte County Animal Shelter and the Josephine County Food Bank.

"We currently have five hungry dogs whose tails are wagging because their bowls will be full thanks to this wonderful donation. The best part is being able to share and have a positive ripple effect on so many local organizations," said Executive Director Brooke Nuckles Gentekos.



Oregon became the first state to officially honor native bees when Gov. Kate Brown proclaimed August 15 this year as Oregon Native Bees Conservation Awareness Day.



Photo credit: Sophronia Scott

We get your letters...

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSA's, poems, artwork and events. Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.

Thank You!

After sharing a photo on social media that shows a house with hate speech spray painted on the side, Sophronia Scott wrote: "My brother who lives in Florida has been away visiting our mother. This is what happened to his house while he was gone. My brother is a veteran who lives with pain daily because of the severe injuries he sustained in service to our country. I'm stunned and saddened he now has to suffer another kind of pain on top of that. You are my friends and you know me--I am slow, extremely slow, to anger. I am angry. I post this because it's important to know this is going on. And it happens to people you know."

About 12,000 people in Iceland say they will open up their homes to Syrian people after their government announced it would welcome just 50 political refugees. Armed with a social media campaign, Icelandic author Bryndis Bjorgvinsdottir made a powerful statement about social responsibility. In an open letter to Eygló Harðar (the Minister of Welfare) she wrote the purpose of the page is "to show the government that there exists a will to receive even more refugees from Syria than the 50 that have already been discussed. We want to push the government — show them that we can do better, and do so immediately!"

Researchers have revealed that RMSNBC and Fox News negatively impact a person's knowledge of current events rather than expanding their awareness of them. Conversely, the majority of political talk shows airing on Sunday mornings and the regular programming on NPR prove to be the most informative news sources according to the findings of the newest PublicMind Survey being conducted by Fairleigh Dickinson University .

The US Prison System Is Actually Larger than Soviet Gulags
Our prison population has reached an ominous milestone over the past few years. The number of Americans who were in jail and prison, or on probation and parole, was 7 million people by 2009. When you include former inmates who have since left our prison system, you wind up with 19 million people as of 2010. This number exceeds the 18 million people who endured the Soviet Gulag system, between 1929 and 1953.

March4Hope in downtown Medford 9/26

Marchers aim to bring understanding and enlightenment to the issues surrounding the care and treatment of persons with mental illness, eradicate stigma surrounding mental illness diagnoses and raise money to improve lives

BY ANDRA HOLLENBECK FOR NAMI OF SO

Southern Oregonians from Jackson and Josephine Counties will lace up their walking shoes Saturday, September 26th to show support to those in the community living with mental illness during their annual March4Hope.

The March4Hope at the Commons II in downtown Medford will benefit Southern Oregonians through National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) programs including support, education and advocacy, said Patricia Garoutte, President of NAMI of Southern Oregon.

Representative Peter Buckley will address the crowd regarding issues surrounding mental illness in Southern Oregon. Additionally, Judge Pat Wolke of Josephine County will speak about changes to the existing Assisted Outpatient Treatment Law in Oregon.

There will also be entertainment and information tables during the event.

The NAMI of Southern Oregon March4Hope takes place on The Commons II in downtown Medford between 4th and 5th Streets and Central and Riverside. Check-in is at 2:00 followed by a rousing, but brief, march through downtown Medford beginning at 2:15.

Registration and marching is free, but participants can solicit donations and those who donate \$25 or more will receive a March4Hope t-shirt. NAMI of Southern Oregon, an all volunteer organization, hopes to build on last year’s success and to raise \$8,000 from this year’s event.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, founded in 1979, has more than 1,100 state and local affiliates that aim to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

All proceeds from the walk will fund NAMI programs in Jackson and Josephine County including family and peer

support activities, education and advocacy programs involving schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), major depression, post-traumatic-stress-disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and severe anxiety disorders.

Programs include Family to Family Education Classes, Family to Family Support Groups, Peer to Peer Education Classes, In Our Own Voice community presentations and the NAMI SO Library located on the first floor of the new Human Services Building in downtown Medford.

“NAMI members are volunteers whose mission is to provide help to people with serious mental and emotional illnesses and their families” said Garoutte, “the goals of this march are to raise money to promote our mission and to increase public awareness of these conditions”.

Anyone wishing to receive more information, register or to become a sponsor can do so on-line at March4Hope.org

Upcycling the Commons

BY SUZIA AUFDERHEIDE

Up cycling: ...also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless and/or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value.

The commons is the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth. These resources are held in common, not owned privately.

Definitions from wikipedia (one of the most useful manifestations of the commons) Many of us agree that the corporate take over of the commons is the single biggest threat to the survival of humanity.

Along with every other sentient creature on the earth today – we are at serious risk. Today, it comes with many names some are: TPP, GMOs, LNG, worldwide mandatory vaccination, fracking, HAARP, chem trails, Citizens United - these days the list never ends.

Bombarded yearly by 80,000 chemicals, we the people, the inherent citizens of the united states, are being poisoned.

There is a simple solution to what harms us and let’s call it reclaiming the commons while instituting precautionary principles. As for the problem with money, also a part of the commons, could be resolved by instituting a top and bottom cap while making sure that the people of the world are the owners of this new currency. But, before we can talk about the future we have to address the now.

Right now we are burying ourselves with junk. We have junk in space, in the ocean and in overflowing landfills. We have even been so ‘ingenious’ as to shoot plutonium into space as a possible storage option. Guess what? The ocean, space and the earth belong to all of us to share. And, as long as we do not claim our part in the commons the very messy few who seem to be bent on destroying every single possible sentient expression of life as we know it prevail. What can we do about them? Well, the first lesson is that there is no “them and us”

only us. When/if the planet dies we all go with it. No exceptions

There are very small acts that we can each focus on daily that will slowly turn the earth back to the home that we know that it can be. Simple, simple things like turning off lights and only flushing brown and not wasting paper. When it comes right down to it saving the landfill is something that we



can all do almost all of the time.

Finally, upcycling the commons! Think of the many ways that folks are upcycling the commons...in New York City freeygangs repurpose food ‘waste’ from restaurants and in Ashland, Food Angels re-purpose 250,000 pounds of food a year right here. Also,there is the old fashioned new england way of upcycling where nothing is thrown out as it can all be fixed and reused one day. On a very similar order there is the Ashland Artisan Emporium which supports nearly 200 enterprises that nearly 100 percent upcycling one way or another. While there you might find an old sled, very usable furniture, handmade, exotic, classic clothing for all family members. Check out some of these masters in upcycling next time you need a gift for someone that you

love.

I bought my son a handmade bird condo for his birthday after racking my brain through the big box stores and the flat satisfaction that would come with just grabbing yet another sweatshop item. Besides being able to upcycle everything from a wheelbarrow to tutus for little girl (all with the touch of local hands) there is the added pleasure of knowing that whatever sweat may have been on the item is gone.

Another pleasure that comes with upcycling is knowing that by the time an item is second hand the sweat is off. The principle that separates upcycling from recycling is that “upcycling drives materials back up the supply chain to be reused negating the need for further virgin stock and reducing waste.”

A brief perusal of the ‘good search’ engine: upcycling Ashland Oregon brought few items...Ashland Art Centre (looking to upcycle art supplies), Ashland Artisans Market, Ecology Ashland and Ashland Ecoculture at forgosystems.com...Three Penny Mercantile, Stearage and Fredrica Lawrence (2 upcycled skirts in 2013) This short list reveals opportunities for businesses to be developed through upcycling.

Our relationship to our garbage and to the commons is that garbage clutters space, ocean and ground, our nest. That we must change is without question. It used to be that the commoners who used to commons also took care of it. By this principle its latest owners, the corporations, are not even cleaning up after themselves. We the people have a history of doing better on the commons.

The question of the day is whether we should wait on government to make the necessary changes. Or rely on one another to each do our part. And, if we each do just a little it is not impossible to upcycle the earth back to health and wholeness. Her partner, her love, her friend, her inherent citizens.

Pachamama Alliance community workshop

workshop will explore how to build a vibrant, growing, active and sustainable community

HOSTED BY LORRAINE COOK

Join the Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance Community with Jason Bayless and Roger Knoren, national trainers from Pachamama Alliance in San Francisco, hosting a afternoon “Game-Changing Community Building” event to gather together, acknowledge, and support local people and groups aligned with “bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet.”

Whether you’re just finding your way to what’s yours to do in “Changing the Dream,” or you are already at work with one or more of the many action groups here in the Rogue Valley, please join us on Sunday, September 13, 2015, 1:00-5:00 p.m., at the Bellview Grange.

Here’s what we’ll do that day:

- Explore a shared vision for a broad-based community in Southern Oregon that engages in action and provides support for creating a thriving and sustainable world.
- Identify what’s needed to make that vision real--what role you can play, or are already playing, and how we can work together sustainably to support each other.
- Learn about collective leadership and Gain cutting edge leadership skills,
- Brainstorm how to grow the critical number of conscious committed people in our area engaged in game-changing action on the personal, local, national, and global levels.
- Celebrate the possibilities of shared support, FUN, and wisdom as we build this community together.

Location Details

When: Sunday, September 13, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m

Where: Bellview Grange, 1050 Tolman Creek Road, Ashland (near the corner of Tolman Creek and Siskiyou Blvd.)



Right to work initiatives filed in Oregon

VIA NW LABOR PRESS

Anti-union forces are campaigning across the United States to pass so-called “right-to-work” laws, which deplete union resources and divide union-represented workers.

On March 9, Republican Gov. Scott Walker signed legislation making Wisconsin the 25th “right-to-work” state. The law was passed in a rush-job special legislative session that Walker convened only days before.

The very next day, two prospective ballot measures were filed in Oregon — aimed at the November 2016 ballot — to make Oregon a right-to-work state for public employees.

In Vancouver, Washington, the Columbian newspaper called for a state right-to-work law in a March 5 editorial entitled “Right to Work = Freedom.”

Right-to-work bills have been introduced in Washington and a number of other states, but nowhere besides Wisconsin are they considered likely this year to get past both legislative chambers and the governor.

But starting in 2014, some right-wing groups began encouraging cities and

counties to pass local right-to-work ordinances, even though those ordinances are likely to be struck down by the courts. The National Labor Relations Act allows states to enact right-to-work statutes, but says nothing about cities or counties.

So far, at least 10 counties in Kentucky have passed local right-to-work measures; the Kentucky AFL-CIO has filed suit in federal court to strike them down.

And in Southwest Washington, Clark County Commissioner David Madore has introduced a right-to-work resolution that would apply to county employees. Right-to-work laws aren’t what they sound like: They don’t guarantee the right to a job. Rather, they bar any union contract from requiring that workers pay dues or the equivalent. In other words, “right-to-work” laws give union-represented employees the “right to work” under the terms of a union contract without paying any of the union’s costs. The laws are intended to produce economically weak unions, and to create workplace rancor between dues-payers and shirkers.

Judge affirms Worker Bill of Rights for Ballot

People of Spokane will vote on first in nation Worker Bill of Rights

BY KAI HUSCHKE, FOR CELDF

Judge Salvatore Cozza from the Spokane County Superior denied a preliminary injunction brought by the Mayor of Spokane to block the vote of a Worker Bill of Rights initiative, which is on the November ballot. The Worker Bill of Rights was duly qualified by the local community rights group, Envision Worker Rights. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) has provided legal assistance to the community group, including legal defense against the challenge brought by the mayor.

This first-in-the-nation Worker Bill of Rights would secure a right to a family wage when working for a large employer, right to equal pay for equal work, right to not be wrongfully terminated, and that corporate powers shall be subordinate to people’s rights.

To CELDF’s knowledge, this will be the first time in the United States that citizens will vote on a true living wage, which is provided for in the Worker Bill of Rights through the right to a family wage provision.

“We are very happy that the people of Spokane had their right to vote protected,” said Brad Read, Campaign Manager for Envision Worker Rights.

In today’s decision, the judge repeatedly referenced the need to protect the citizens’ initiative process. He spoke of how the initiative process was developed in the early 20th century as a means for the people to bring forward ideas “outside of the box”

Deputies walk off job after Oregon sheriff assault on suspect

BY DAVID EDWARDS FOR RAW STORY

Over twenty percent of deputies Klamath County, Oregon recently asked to be put on leave after Sheriff Frank Skrah was accused of punching a handcuffed suspect.

The Oregonian reported that the Oregon Department of Justice confirmed on Monday that Skrah was under investigation for use of excessive force. At the same time, seven of the county’s 30 deputies had been granted requests for “non-disciplinary” paid leave.

“The Klamath County Board of County Commissioners today confirmed that over the last four days, Klamath County has placed seven deputies on non-disciplinary paid administrative leave, per their requests,” the county said in a press release.

A second statement from Sheriff Skrah complained that the county had granted leave without his approval.

“Placing these individuals on paid leave was done without consulting with me or my command staff,” the sheriff remarked. “I will do everything possible, together with my command staff too (SIC) keep

patrols operating for the benefit of the citizens of Klamath County.” Attorney Becky Gallagher, who was hired by the deputies union, said that the officers requested the leave to protect themselves from retribution.

“The Klamath County Peace Officers Association went to the county and asked for some protection for its members,” Gallagher explained. “They were concerned about retaliation and a hostile workplace.” According to Gallagher, at least one of the deputies had filed a complaint with the Oregon Employment Relations Board against the sheriff.

Klamath County Commissioner Kelly Minty Morris suggested that the county could be at risk because because so many deputies were off the job.

“The board of commissioners is currently assessing whether this puts us at risk in terms of being able to protect the public safety,” she noted.

In the meantime, Oregon State Police spokesperson Kyle Bove said his troopers were helping to “provide police patrol coverage where needed.”

New website provides tools for filing police misconduct reports

BY JASON HOUK

Do you know how to report police misconduct? It is not always easy to figure out. That is why the ACLU of Oregon put together a new online guide: How to File a Police Complaint in Oregon.

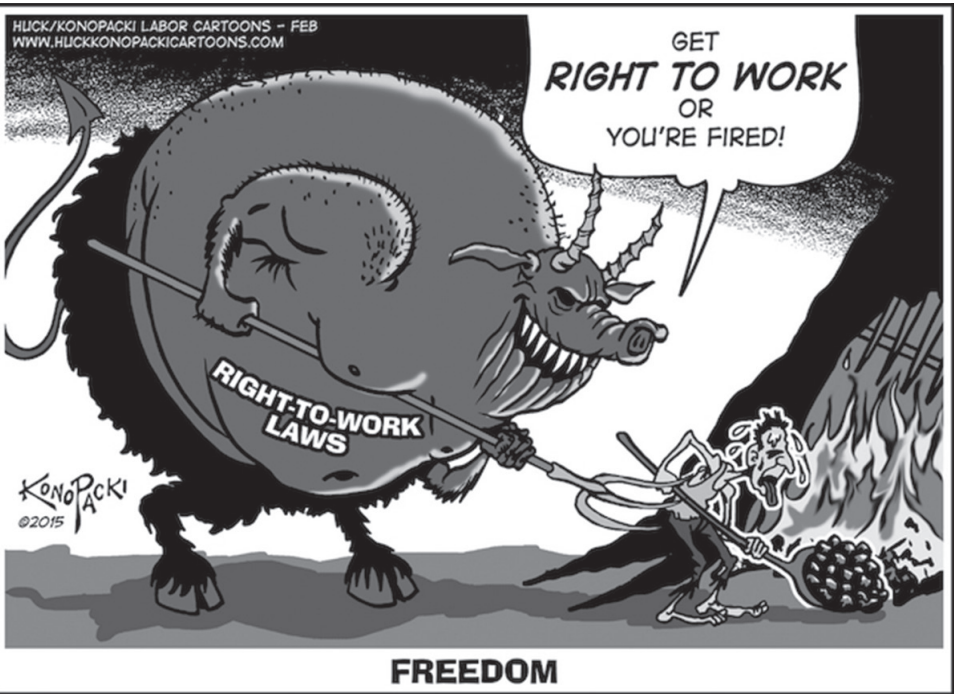
<http://aclu-or.org/how-file-police-complaint-oregon>

ACLU researchers reached out to law enforcement agencies across the state and gathered what was learned in an online directory. It is their hope that by shedding light on the process, more Oregonians will feel empowered to report police misconduct they experience or witness.

What’s on your mind?

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSAs, poems, artwork and events.

Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.



RIGHTS 12

A Street Print & Parcel
COMMUNITY BUSINESS CENTER
Ashland Family Owned Since 2008

COLOR COPIES .50¢

NOTARY SERVICE


Authorized ShipCenter

Printing • Packing • Shipping
Graphic Design • Logos • Flyers
Booklets • Brochures • Pamphlets
Signs • Banners • Shredding • Mail Boxes
Business Cards • Carbonless Forms
Fax • Scanning • Bindery • Lamination

**FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING
PACKING AND SHIPPING NEEDS.**
258 A Street, Suite 1
Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM • Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM
541-552-0505 phone • 541-552-0545 fax
www.astreetcopy.com • info@astreetcopy.com

 Like us on Facebook



**Rogue Valley Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**



RVUUF is a liberal religious community open to all, honoring diversity and freedom of thought. The Fellowship is committed to social action and justice.

87 Fourth Street • Ashland
541-482-4755

Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Sleep

CONTINUED FROM 1

because of disability access or exceeding maximum stay requirements), then it would be impossible for some homeless individuals to comply with these ordinances. As set forth below, in those circumstances enforcement of the ordinances amounts to the criminalization of homelessness, in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

There are at least two examples of Supreme Court rulings that strengthen this statement. As Mark Joseph Stern points out in an article for Slate, in *Robinson v. California*, a California Statute was struck down when the court found that the state could not criminalise the “status” of drug addiction. He goes on to say that a Texas statute on public drunkenness (*Powell v. Texas*) could apply to voluntary public drunkenness, but could not be used to punish those who are addicted to alcohol. These create a framework where it’s likely that homeless people who are unable to conform to rules and regulations of public shelters, would still be protected from heavy handed ticketing for camping because addictions prevent them from being able to access available shelter.

What does this mean locally? We reached out to the city of Ashland and received the following statement from City Attorney Dave Lohman who says, “While DOJ’s statement surely will be taken seriously, the court is not bound by it in any way. The extent to which a judgment in the case will embrace the points made in the statement and the consequent practical implications for local jurisdictions - including possible new enforcement, property maintenance, infrastructure, financial, and interjurisdictional cooperation obligations - is impossible to foresee at this time, long before the case and possible appeals are decided.

Until *Bell v. Boise* is decided, the City of Ashland has no legal obligation to modify its proscription of unpermitted occupation of public property to the exclusion of use by the general public.

At any time, City Council could, of course, amend AMC 10.46 for any reason, including agreement with some or all of the points in the USDOJ statement. Any revisions to Ashland’s ordinance before *Bell v. Boise* is finally decided could have to be reconsidered after its ramifications are clear.”

Ashland Oregon targeting homeless?

Right in the middle of Occupy Ashland’s 24/7 occupation of the city plaza in 2011, I held a front row seat throughout the late night and early morning hours and got a firsthand glimpse of how our city police targeted homeless people. Several times I stood just steps away and watched APD hand out tickets under Ashland’s camping ordinance (2972) which reads in part:

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 46 PROHIBITED CAMPING REVISING PENALTIES CLARIFYING AND AMENDING TIMEFRAMES AND PROCEDURES. WHEREAS the City of Ashland wishes to modify and update the City Ordinance relating to Prohibited Camping to clarify the offense is a violation and not a crime and to adjust timeframes and other provisions and THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS SECTION 1 Section 10 46 020 Camping Prohibited is hereby amended to read as follows No person shall camp in or upon any sidewalk street alley lane public right of way park or any other publicly owned property or under any bridge or viaduct unless otherwise specifically authorized by this code by the owner of the property or by emergency declaration under AMC26 20 30 of the Mayor in emergency circumstances.”

The Rogue Valley Community Press wants to hear from our homeless community. How has this affected you? Have you been ticketed and what was the outcome? Back in 2011, we tried to do “Court Watch” and are willing to take that on again, so if you have a court date and want a witness, please contact us at 541.622.9483 or email to editor@rvcommunitypress.com.

Rights

CONTINUED FROM 4

that would not be entertained by “traditional” legislative bodies whether it be at the local or state level.

The judge concluded his decision by saying the “heart of the matter” was whether the Worker Bill of Rights fell within the very narrow realm of a pre-election challenge. He felt that it did not and that he was compelled to follow what he called a “general principle” that the right of the people to vote needs to be upheld.

“This legal challenge was clearly a calculated attempt by the mayor, goaded and backed by Spokane’s corporate powerbrokers, to thwart the right of the people to vote”, said Kai Huschke, CELDF organizer for Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. “That move has blown up in their faces, so the corporate interests will now see if they can buy a campaign to kill the passage of a very popular proposal in the Worker Bill of Rights.”

The mayor’s attorney, Michael Ryan from the international corporate law firm K&L Gates, said that the not decision has been made on whether the mayor will appeal the preliminary injunction.

For more information on the Worker Bill of Rights visit www.envisionworkerri-ghts.org

Protest

CONTINUED FROM 11

Oliveira, a youth activist. “It’s past time we put the needs and rights of the people and the planet over profits and abandon this pipeline proposal immediately.”

The youth climate activists gathered at an action camp this week at Howard Prairie Lake hosted by the Civil Liberties Defense Center, the Vancouver Action Network and the Backbone Campaign to connect and organize. Participants included teens from across the Pacific Northwest and several youth members of the Yurok and Hoopa Tribes from Northern California.

“It is key for a strong community and nation that our leaders not allow private financial interests to interfere with the needs of future generations and our environment,” said Josephine Wallace, a youth from Phoenix, Oregon. “I have the right as a young Oregonian to experience a healthy environment as past generations did, and not be cheated out of that for corporate profit.”

Labor Day tradition born from workers’ struggle

BY JASON HOUK

Labor Day is the traditional end of summer. It’s the last great weekend before the kids go back to school and the holiday shopping season starts. Labor day is a celebration of labor, but for most overworked Americans, Labor Day is simply a day for celebration away from work.

To understand why we celebrate Labor Day is to understand the struggle of American workers in the late 1800’s. The post-civil war era was not an easy time for the working class. Society saw an increasing gap between rich and poor and a decreasing gap between skilled and unskilled laborers. Because of the labor saving quality of the factory machine, companies no longer required the highly skilled (and highly paid) artisan, but could hire the immigrant off the street for a mere pittance. Many traditional farmers were forced off their land and the industrial revolution was redefining the worker as replaceable cogs. It was a time when children worked the mines, women suffered in deadly sweatshops and social unrest was growing

In the news were strikes, riots and deaths. In the 1880s there were over 10,000 labor strikes caused by poor and unregulated working conditions, low wages, and the technology that made it all possible. “About 45 percent of the industrial workers barely held on above the \$500-per-year poverty line; about 40 percent lived below the line of tolerable existence.... About a fourth of those below the poverty line lived in actual destitution” (Trachtenberg 90).

And the current government was not helping alleviate the problems. This was the birth of American labor movement with the rise of labor unions, like Knights of Labor. American Federation of Labor. and Industrial Workers of the World.

In 1882, a machinist named Matthew Maguire first proposed a holiday to celebrate labor while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union of New York. It is also suggested that Peter J. McGuire of the American Federation of Labor first proposed the holiday after witnessing the annual labour festival held in Toronto, Canada.

Oregon was the first state to make it a holiday on February 21, 1887, and by 1894, thirty states officially celebrated Labor Day.

Following the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during the 1894 Pullman Strike, the United States Congress unanimously voted to approve rush legislation that made Labor Day a national holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law, a mere six days after the end of the strike.

The September date was selected rather than May 1st, International Workers’ Day, because Cleveland was concerned that observance of the latter would be associated with the socialist and anarchist movements and commemorate the Haymarket Affair.

THANKS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT

It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, worker safety, family leave, Social Security, Medicare, and retirement plans.

The cornerstones of middle-class security all bear the Union Label.



In 1887, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day an official holiday

Occupy Medford meets every Saturday in the Medford Library from 10am - Noon

99% STRONG!

Ashland marijuana ordinance could limit outdoor grows

VIA ASHLAND CITY HALL

Because marijuana gives off a pungent, skunk-like odor when it matures, the City annually receives numerous complaints from neighbors in late summer and early fall when the plants are most odoriferous, and the City has cited some growers under its noxious odor ordinance. Given what may be a proliferation of outdoor marijuana growing under the new law, the City Council has asked staff to draft and bring forward an ordinance that places reasonable limitations on outdoor marijuana growing in residential zones. Ashland City staff have drafted an ordinance that is being considered by the Planning Commission to regulate marijuana growing in the City.

You can read the ordinance here <http://tinyurl.com/oukzlj>

As proposed, the ordinance would allow no more than four marijuana plants to be grown outdoors on a residential lot of 5,000 square feet or less. Plants grown outdoors must be confined to an area of no more than 50 square feet. They must be set back 10 feet from any property line and 20 feet from dwellings on any adjoining property. Someone who is permitted to grow more than four plants under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program could grow as many as 12 plants, but no more than four of them outdoors. The ordinance also includes a sliding scale that would permit larger lots to grow more plants outside. The City of Ashland staff is looking for citizen input. You can share your thoughts at the city of Ashland Open City Hall <http://tinyurl.com/njcatos>

‘Legitimate Business’ author discusses Darfur

BY CARRIE PRECHTEL

Michael Niemann will discuss his latest thriller, Legitimate Business, where the story begins in a refugee camp in Darfur, on Friday, September 18 from 2:00-3:30 p.m., in the Large Meeting Room of the Medford Branch Library, 205 South Central Avenue.

Niemann will also discuss the origin of the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, the broader questions about the conflict and why it continues, and what’s going on there right now as a way to provide the context for the book. He will have accompanying slides illustrating the situation in Darfur.

Michael Niemann is a teacher of International Studies at SOU. In addition to Legitimate Business, Niemann has also written a book on regionalism and numerous articles on African and global affairs. His short story Africa Always Needs Guns was included in the 2013 Mystery Writers of America Anthology Vengeance.

This author talk is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the Medford Library, who also provide refreshments. For more information please call the Medford Branch Library at 541-774-8679 or visit jcls.org.

Dramatic protests disrupts business as usual for Pacific Connector

Youth activists are joining the growing “No LNG” campaign. The coalition includes impacted landowners, conservationists, tribal members, climate activists, and many others committed to preventing the Jordan Cove Energy Project.

BY KERUL DYER
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR | KLAMATH RIVERKEEPER

Youth climate justice advocates staged creative protests against the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project at the Vogel Plaza in Medford last month. The youth displayed large banners, performed passionate spoken word, marched in procession with supporters from the local No LNG Campaign, and enacted a “die in,” in which they laid on the ground in silence for 232 seconds, representing the devastation that would be caused by the 232 miles of proposed pipeline. Before congregating in downtown Medford, the group delivered a symbolic message to Pacific Connector at their office on Highway 62, denying them a permit to “destroy the future.” Issues ranging from climate destabilization to the disruption of Indigenous burial grounds united the group around a common cause to stop the pipeline.

The proposed LNG pipeline project would rip a hole through Southern Oregon’s scenic forests by requiring a 95-foot clearcut for the entire 232-miles pipeline route. Drilling for the pipeline threatens water quality in four major rivers, including the Klamath, the Umpqua, the Rogue, and the Coos. It would also require more than 400 stream crossings that are home to native salmon that would be harmed by increased sedimentation and elevated temperatures.

The LNG Pipeline project, including the power plant required to run the export terminal, would become the largest greenhouse gas emitter in Oregon after 2020.

“This pipeline will further destroy the planet for future generations,” said Ciyin



Youth protest against the Jordan Cove/Pacific Connector .

Photo by Matt Witt

PROTEST 12

Hike The Pipe participants to rally on the Rogue

BY SARAH WESTOVER
ROGUE RIVER KEEPER

Community members will gather for a picnic and celebration Saturday at Upper Rogue park in Shady Cove to welcome Hike the Pipe, a group hiking 232 miles along the proposed Pacific Connector pipeline route in protest of a fracked gas pipeline and export terminal proposed for Southwest Oregon.

Led by Ashland High School graduate Alex Harris, Hike the Pipe participants will visit key river crossings, affected landowners, and the communities and ecosystems along the proposed pipeline route spanning four counties. If constructed, the Pacific Connector pipeline would cross 400 streams and rivers and require permanent clearcuts along the pipeline route through public and private property. Project opponents are concerned that the project would increase

domestic gas prices, worsen climate change and give the power of eminent domain to a Canadian company to export gas overseas.

“We must be aware of the threats this pipeline poses to our communities and ecosystems” says Hike the Pipe Organizer Alex Harris, “Hike the Pipe is promoting public awareness of the fact that a Canadian corporation is using eminent domain to export fracked gas to Asia, they will know that the LNG pipeline can in no way be deemed in the public interest.”

The Pacific Connector would terminate in Coos Bay where Jordan Cove would be built to liquefy the fracked gas and ship it overseas to Asian markets. The Jordan Cove processing and export terminal would quickly become the larg-

est greenhouse gas polluter in the state.

The Hike the Pipe picnic in Shady Cove will be held near the pipeline crossing on the Rogue river and is one of several events the hikers will participate in throughout their 232 mile journey. Participants are also invited to float the Rogue from the picnic location by meeting the hikers with boats and kayaks at Rogue Elk park at 10am. The Community will greet the hikers with a banner drop from a bride and hear from impacted landowners and from hikers about their journey so far! Hikers will also stop over in Winston before the Hike’s grand finale in Coos Bay on September 26th.

Every kid in a park

A new government program aims to teach children the value of our National Park lands. “Every Kid in a Park” offers a free annual pass (an \$80 value).



Visit <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/get-your-pass/fourth-grader> and you can print a free pass for 4th graders and their families.



PEACE HOUSE

SERVING ASHLAND AND THE ROGUE VALLEY FOR OVER 30 YEARS,
WAGING PEACE ~ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

CELEBRATE PEACE 2015 AWARDS DINNER

Saturday, November 7 at 7PM at Inn at The Commons

Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley will be the national honoree and keynote speaker.
Several area activists will also be honored.

Information about on-line reservations will be forthcoming as the date nears.
Keep up with all Peace House activities at www.peacehouse.net and like us on Facebook.



543 So. Mountain Av
Ashland, OR 97520
541-482-9625
www.peacehouse.net

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice."
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

UNCLE FOODS DINER
Serving a nutritious and delicious hot meal every Tuesday at 4:30
175 N. Main St., Ashland

LIKE us on FaceBook!

More than half of students chasing dying careers, report warns

BY RACHEL BROWN

Sixty per cent of Australian students are training for jobs that will not exist in the future or will be transformed by automation, according to a new report by the Foundation for Young Australians. The not-for-profit group, which works with young Australians to create social change, says the national curriculum is stuck in the past and digital literacy, in particular, needs to be boosted. Foundation chief executive Jan Owen says young people are not prepared for a working life that could include five career changes and an average of 17 different jobs. She says today's students will be affected by three key economic drivers: automation, globalisation and collaboration.

“Many jobs and careers are disappearing because of automation,” Ms Owen said. “The second driver is globalization - a lot of different jobs that we’re importing and exporting. “And then thirdly, collaboration which is all about this new sharing economy.” After early career ambitions which included being a lawyer “like Ally McBeal”, a pathologist and and a pharmacist, Jillian Kenny is now the co-founder of a program that inspires young women to take up engineering. She says an alarming amount of university and TAFE students are studying in the wrong areas. “Nearly 60 per cent [of students] at university and nearly 70 per cent at TAFE were studying jobs that will



be automated,” Ms Kenny said. “So that’s 44 per cent of jobs that will be automated in the next 10 years.” Owen said students should be gearing themselves towards jobs that will open up in the future, including in the health care and aged care sectors. She said job opportunities in the digital economy and the green economy would also continue to evolve. “The point is that young people need to be prepared for those jobs, with 50 per cent needing digital capability.” She is also calling for Australia to adopt a national enterprise learning strategy. “This is a conversation that everyone needs to have,” she said.

Talent clean energy market

Rogue Climate and Together for Talent are hosting a Clean Energy Market. Come learn how you can transition your home or business to clean energy and greater energy efficiency. There will be music, food, and a raffle. The event will be held at the Talent Artisans and Growers Market at the Talent Skate Park on Friday, September 11 at 5:30pm to dusk.

Our Critical Climate - trends , impacts and solutions

A summit addressing the urgent climate crisis confronting the Rogue Basin

BY ALAN JOURNET

Reports tell us that rivers throughout Oregon’s Southwest are suffering water shortage due to the lack of snowpack this last winter with average run-off basin-wide at 75% of normal. Low water flow caused the city of Bandon, on the Coquille River, recently to consider rationing water. Meanwhile, upstream reservoirs such as Lost Creek have been struggling to keep the water flowing at a sufficient rate to maintain water level high enough and temperature cool enough for healthy salmon populations. Climate trends and projections are reported on the United States Geological Survey website. As temperatures have been rising since the mid-1970s, snowfall and soil moisture have been dropping. The drought we are experiencing in the west is further evidence of these patterns. Similarly, these climate trends are contributing to the heightened risk of wildfire we are all confronting. These are just the most obvious regional trends. Lurking in the wings, to cause greater problems, are the impacts of climate trends on our forests, wetland, rivers and other natural systems and our agriculture and forestry. If these unfolding trends continue, the natural world - the heart of everything about the region that we love - will be compromised beyond recognition. Indeed, we cannot afford complacency; our planning must incorporate understanding the trends, not anticipating a return to past averages. Recognizing these regional problems, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is organizing “*Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions - A Rogue Basin Summit*”. The two-day conference will be held Tuesday / Wednesday October 13th and 14th at Inn at the Commons in Medford. The purpose of the first day is to help area residents understand the climate trends and the impacts we are

experiencing. This will be followed on the second day by exploration of what is being done regionally to address the problems and climax with a series of concurrent break-out sessions. During these sessions conference attendees will join a break-out group and contribute to the initiation of further actions that will address our climate problems. Conference organizers intend that discussion of these additional solutions will extend beyond the conference, with follow-up meetings where plans are further developed and turned into action. The target audience for the conference includes community leaders across the Basin, elected representatives and city or county department and state agency personnel. Also encouraged to attend are the general public, students, and the media. Registration, covering lunches on both days and morning beverages, is \$55 with a deadline of September 30th. To help registrants, Inn at the Commons offers discounted room rates. “While it is impossible to live in the Rogue Basin and not see and feel the consequences of global warming” SOCAN co-facilitator and organizing team leader Kathy Conway said, “we feel that addressing this problem is a matter of inter-generational justice. Although it is true we are experiencing global warming consequences now, if we fail to address this problem, our children will suffer more, and as our grandchildren age they will be confronted by an increasingly unlivable planet.” “Addressing climate change is, indeed, the moral imperative of our time. We encourage all Basin residents to join us.” Conway concluded. Besides incorporating regional experts addressing critical components, the conference includes several well-known presenters contributing their expertise. The Tuesday keynote speaker, Dr. Phil Mote, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at OSU in Corvallis, will discuss what regional climate projections mean for us if we fail to address the problem. The Tuesday evening speaker will be Professor



Mary Wood from the University of Oregon Law School exploring ‘Our Children’s Trust,’ a project that involves youth taking legal action to require governments, which hold our natural resources in trust for future generations, to manage those resources appropriately. During discussion of solutions on the second day, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy will outline what her city, a leader in this arena, is doing to address climate issues. Also on the program, to discuss health implications will be Emily York from the Oregon Health Authority, and to explore state political action will be State Representative Peter Buckley and State Senator Alan Bates. The inspiration for the conference was SOU Professor emeritus Eric Dittmer who also serves on the organizing team. Dittmer pointed out that many conferences about climate change provide attendees with a grim picture of climate trends, projections, and consequences, leaving them feeling depressed and helpless. “What we are trying to accomplish with this event” he noted, “is to provide a realistic picture of these trends, projections and consequences, but also provide those attending with an opportunity to work on solutions and to leave the conference knowing they can do something about these problems.” “We also hope to provide a vehicle allowing participants to continue the conversation and accomplish something positive...” Dittmer concluded.



Jill Mackie of Womens International League for Peace and Freedom lights a candle as Reverend Norma Nakai Burton from the Ashland Unity Church officiates the opening of the annual Rogue Valley Hiroshima-Nagasaki vigil in Lithia Park. Antendees participated in a tradiitional Japanese water ceremony symbolizing the easing of suffering and share personal reflections.

Photo by Jason Houk

The Trade in Services Agreement and the corporate agenda

BY IVEND HOLEN

Since 2013, 51 nations have been conducting secret closed door negotiations on a Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) whose text has been kept secret, despite the fact that this agreement, as proposed, constrains a broad range of services typically performed by governmental organizations. This promotes their selloff similar to the selloff of public assets being subjected to the government of Greece. The United States the UK, and the European Union are the countries mostly strongly pushing for TISA. The agreement aims at liberalizing the worldwide trade of services such as banking, health care, mail delivery, transportation, and water (and other) utilities.

Proposed Agreement

The agreement covers about 70% of the global services economy, with the aim of privatizing the worldwide trade of services. Services comprise 75% of American economic output, and in EU states, almost 75% of its employment and gross domestic product. For commitments on what the European Commission calls ‘national treatment’, the following applies: Once a particular trade barrier has unilaterally been removed in a TISA country it cannot be reintroduced.

WikiLeaks ad released a classified draft of the proposal’s financial services annex in June 2014, and on July 2, 2015, leaked copies of 27 draft TISA texts, ranging from the annexes on Financial Services to an annex on Air Transport Services. See <https://wikileaks.org/tisa/>

Financial Regulations

Despite the lessons of the 2008 financial crisis which sought to reregulate financial firms to prevent another crisis, the leaked TISA rules have been drafted to require countries – including the world’s largest financial centers – to halt or even roll back virtually all financial regulations.

The leaked Annex on Financial Services makes clear that TISA restrictions on financial regulations would apply to virtually the entire financial sector – including derivatives, banking, stocks and bonds, foreign exchange, life and nonlife insurance, credit cards, financial data processing, credit rating, reinsurance and



The Trade in Services Agreement “responds to major corporate lobbies’ desire to deregulate services,” says global trade expert. (Photo: GGAADD/flickr/cc)

other financial services. TISA goals are to pressure governments to broadly commit to the pact’s rules, and even bind them to rules for financial products that have not yet been invented, requiring domestic laws to conform to the nowrejected model of extreme deregulation that led to the latest global recession. TISA nations that fail to alter its financial policies to require deregulation could face indefinite trade sanctions, authorized by an extrajudicial tribunal, until it brings its financial policies into conformity.

Health Care

TISA strongly advocates for privatizing health care systems, and seeks to remove any barriers that nations have instituted to promote public systems. The current effort by the Conservative Party in the UK to defund the UK’s NHS (National Healthcare System) is seen as the first step in dismantling the world’s leading public healthcare system. According to the UK’s National Health Action Party (NHAP) this effort is being taken because of US pressure to ease the approval process of TISA, with reduced opposition expected from the British electorate with a weakened NHS system under attack.

Mail Delivery

The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) claims that TISA is a “trade deal

the U.S. is negotiating behind closed doors with 50 other countries” which will “threaten the future of public and private sector services, including the U.S. Postal Service”. Member countries could challenge requirements to serve customers in all areas, jeopardizing service to rural communities.

The lobbying group Express Association of America, which represents FedEx and UPS, enthusiastically states that TISA “provides an opportunity to review the postal policies of the negotiating partners.”

According to the lobbying association, TISA is expected to:

- Eliminate regulations that favor public postal services.
- Eliminate all licensing requirements for express delivery providers.
- Eliminate mandates requiring express delivery providers to contribute to universal service funds.

Two years ago the UK privatized its 500 year old public Royal Mail service, selling off the entire business and all its assets at a bargain basement price to financial speculators, including a US hedge fund – a public service that had that returned tens of millions of pounds annually to the UK government, and which provided not only mail services, but even banking services to poor and rural people throughout the country. Delivery service has declined,

strikes are common, and morale among postal workers has plummeted.

Transportation

The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), comprised of roughly 700 unions from more than 150 countries, warned that the TISA documents “foresee consolidated power for big transport industry players and threaten the public interest, jobs and a voice for workers.”

According to ITF president Paddy Crumlin: “This text would supercharge the most powerful companies in the transport industry, giving them preferential treatment. What’s missing from this equation is any value at all for workers and citizens.”

Along with the privatization of the Royal Mail, the UK also recently sold off its national railway system to six private corporations, and the result has been another unmitigated disaster, with the recent levels of service approaching those of AMTRAK in the US, which seems to deliberately discourage public use. One of the six private British lines quickly went bankrupt and had to be taken back by the UK, which is now preparing to sell it off again at an even lower price. Millions of people are discouraged from using the once world famous British trains while ticket prices have risen to levels that only the affluent can afford.

Water and Other Utilities

Regarding the selloff of public utilities that TISA is designed to promote, and as mentioned earlier, once a particular trade barrier has unilaterally been removed in a TISA country it cannot be reintroduced. This proposal is known as the ‘ratchet clause’. Had Bolivia, for example, signed the draft agreement, it could not have allowed the seizure of the corporate “Viola” water systems by some of its major cities after massive protests by the citizens. It did this because of the massive company fraud and kickbacks that potential customers had to pay just in order to procure water services.

Neither would the city of Stockton, Calif. have been able to take back its privatized municipal water, sewage, and stormwater systems four years after selling them off to foreignbased private firms in 2003, and after a near revolt of the local electorate who virtually replaced their city government in

order to reverse the disastrous sale.

According to the leaked documents, the TISA will not only prevent governments from returning public services to public hands when privatizations fail, it will also restrict domestic regulations on worker safety, limit environmental regulations and consumer protections and regulatory authority in areas such as licensing of health

financial services (including banking, securities trading, accounting, insurance, etc.), energy, education, healthcare, retail, shipping, telecommunications, legal services, transportation, and tourism– is transferred from citizens, local oversight boards, and local or provincial/state jurisdiction to unaccountable ‘trade’ negotiators who have shown a clear proclivity for



Photo credit: Democracy Now

care facilities, power plants, waste disposal and university and school accreditation.

Our US Congress, including Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, recently voted to give “Fast Track Authority” to Free Trade Agreements, such as the TPP, for the next five years, including the TISA deal, should it move to full agreement. Its a shame our Congress failed to listen to the statements below:

“Democracy is eroded when decision-making about important sectors– such as

curtailing regulation and prioritizing corporate profits.”

and...

“It’s a dark day for democracy when we are dependent on leaks like this for the general public to be informed of the radical restructuring of regulatory frameworks that our governments are proposing,” said Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.

Rogue Valley Veterans for Peace Chapter 156

Supports Rogue Valley Community Press
& Urges Congress to Approve
the Iran Nuclear Deal
☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

VFP 156 meets in the homes of members on the first Wednesday of each month. Vets and non-vets are invited to join. For more information, call our chapter President Daniel Davis at 541-944-8768.

Visit our website at: <http://rv-vfp156.org>

